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2 Successful C-47 Landings Made on North Polar Ice Pack

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Mar. 29. —A 10th Rescue Squadron C-47 airplane has made two successful landings on the North Polar ice pack, the Alaska Air Command announced last night.

The landings, made March 21 and 22 but unreported until now, were made 100 miles north of Barter Island, a desolate stretch of land off the northern coast of Alaska. The island serves as a base of training operations now being conducted by the air command.

The C-47 was piloted by Lt. Col. Eugene O. Strause of Topeka, Kan. Col. Bernt Balchen, commanding officer of the rescue squadron, termed the landings one of the most important events in polar aviation.

"Col. Strause's landings showed that if necessary both large bombers and transports could crash-land with comparative safety on the polar ice pack," Col. Balchen said.

The landings were designed to test the different types of surfaces available in the Far Northern region.

One was made on a large ice block covered with coarse granulated snow; the other on hard-packed and drifted snow, the usual surface found in the region. On both days, the C-47 was preceded onto the ice by a glider piloted by Lt. James S. Keel of Chicago. It later was snatched up by a C-54 and towed back to Barter Island.